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Utah life filled with stories of death, disaster in mines

By Arnold Irvine

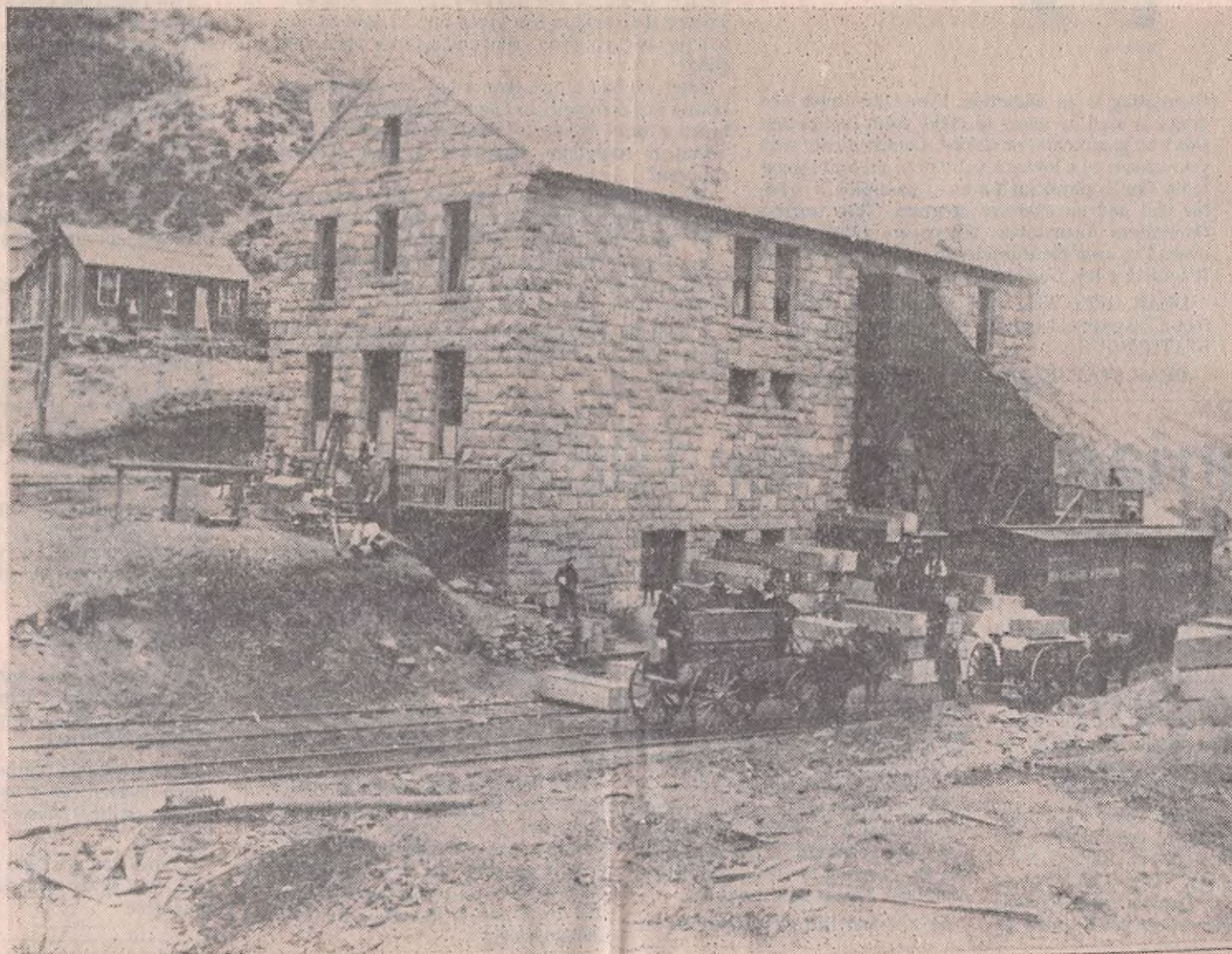
Deseret News staff writer

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FOUR MINERS had just been carried out of the tunnel after a huge slab of rock had fallen from the roof and crushed them to death in the Plateau Mine at Wattis, Carbon County. The date was August of 1979.

"Every time you go into the portal, you never know if you're going to walk out or be carried out. Every day you just live with it. There's always that anxious feeling at quitting time that I made it another day without getting hurt," said a miner who had assisted in the recovery effort.

The statement pretty well sums up the cloud that continually hangs over all miners



Utah's worst mining accident, in terms of lives lost, occurred at the Scofield mine in 1900. About 200 men died, and coffins had to be shipped in from Salt Lake and Denver.

National Smokeout Day



Dear Abby

ABIGAIL
VAN BUREN

Overeating is an addiction. Food, like drink and drugs, is used by many to make them feel better. Don't be judgmental or unkind. Communicate with your spouse on a loving level. Try to get that spouse to the family physician for an examination, a sensible diet and an exercise program. Then suggest Overeaters Anonymous. (There are chapters all over.) I've seen the miracles they have performed. It's worth a try. Good luck.

DEAR ABBY: What would you do if you were a 5-foot-8, 60-year-old lady in love with a shrimp? — STATUESQUE

DEAR STATUESQUE: I'd get on my knees and

thank God if he loved me back. Then I'd pray that no 5-foot lady was fishing off my dock.

DEAR ABBY: The 80-year-old woman who is heartsick about her 28-year-old grandson's decision to have a vasectomy should mind her own business. She says he already has two children and makes a meager living, so she pays his rent and utilities. I wonder if Grandma has given any thought to who will pay her grandson's rent and utilities when she's gone?

After we had a girl, then a boy, we decided our family was complete, so I had a vasectomy. We also heard a lot of "what ifs" from family and friends. "What if something happened to one of your children?"

We told them, "What if we had 10 children, our house burned down and we lost them all? One child could never be replaced with another."

I was asked, "What if your wife died, or you were divorced, and you married again and you wanted children with another wife, then what?"

I had my answer ready: "I'm covered at the sperm bank." — PESTERED NO MORE IN LONG BEACH

Marriage is 'in' for 1985

delighted to read in one of the books of trends published this year that marriage is "in." It didn't say for how long, I comment on it before it goes out.

For children's vernacular, my husband and I are considered "Married serving out the full term." The last decade that has put us there with the manual typewriter and the stuffed dinosaur.

It hasn't been easy swimming in the tide of cohabitation. It's "Your sign?" vs. "Did you have lunch?" It's "You want to?" vs. "Don't cut your toenails or you'll screw up

the sweeper." The cohabits have been winning.

For awhile, my husband and I pretended to be a part of the "relationship" trend. It didn't make us seem so square. We learned how to talk meaningful, told everyone we made a commitment to one another during a free fall and once we checked into a hotel under two names without luggage. (We slipped out after dark to get our night clothes out of the trunk.)

In our hearts we knew if marriage was to make a comeback there would have to be changes. It has happened. We are entering the era of the Relay Marriage. This is how it works.

Debbie and Bill were married six



Erma Bombeck

years ago. They have one daughter, Sarah, who was conceived on their honeymoon.

At 6 a.m., Bill gets up and prepares for his day. He feeds Sarah, gets something out of the freezer to defrost, throws a load of clothes into the washer and empties the dryer from the night before. He packs Sarah's lunch and drops her off at school. His wife, Debbie, sleeps.

Debbie gets up at 1 p.m. and puts the load of wet laundry into the dryer, cooks whatever Bill has defrosted and vacuums the apartment. She drops off



Write to Do-It-Man, P.O. Box 1257, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110

Refund for repairs

I own an Aqua Clean machine, which I sent to the Pure Water Inc. factory in Lincoln, Neb., to be repaired. Under the terms of the warranty, the cost of repairs was to never exceed \$10. The Aqua Clean machine is a water purifier.

The company repaired the machine, but it charged me \$54.18. I had to pay the shipper C.O.D. before it would give me the unit.

I've asked the company to reimburse me for all but \$10 of the bill. So far it hasn't. — Mr. J., Bountiful.

By the time the company received our letter it had already sent you a refund of \$44.18. It apologizes for the delay. It says it is under new management and reorganization.

Jewelry's coming

I purchased some jewelry through General Mills. I have not received it. The company, however, did send me a catalog about quality merchandise from Oneida, Noritake, Regal, Mirro, and more, that I could buy at a savings of up to 65 percent. I have never requested such a catalog. But the jewelry, which I did order, I have not received.

The name and address on the label of the catalog are correct, so that's not the problem. I would appreciate your looking into this. — C.M., Salt Lake City.

The Betty Crocker Coupon Plan responded to our letter saying there was a delay in jewelry shipments. However, you should have already received yours. To solve the problem, the company is sending you another shipment out of its "emergency" supply. You should have received them by now.

Home humidity

If the air in your home seems too dry during the winter, you may want to purchase a humidifier, or routinely boil water on the stove, or even slightly open a window, says a recent issue of U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT.

A comfortable humidity level is 35 percent. If the humidity goes much lower it can cause loose furniture joints, creaking floors, brittle leather, wilted house plants and cracks in walls, ceilings, even oil paintings.

Homes that are tight and well-insulated may keep out natural moisture, making the air indoors even drier than the Sahara Desert, says the magazine.

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